

2/27/2019

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Re: OPPOSITION to HB 7150

As a resident and homeowner in New Canaan, I vehemently oppose HB 7150.

Forcing towns to pay these annual pension contributions will create big gaps in town budgets and lead to significant increases in property taxes. Sharp increases in property taxes negatively impact many family budgets, mine included. And many in Fairfield County are already bracing for the impact of the latest rounds of property revaluations and anticipated sharp increases in mill rates. At some point, it will no longer make financial sense to stay in Connecticut. The rapidly rising costs of staying in this state and the continued threat of regionalization of schools make moving somewhere far cheaper and paying for private schooling an ever more attractive alternative to bearing the burden of ever increasing taxes and expenses to stay here for the quality public schools.

Furthermore, local school districts negotiate teachers' salaries, but they do not negotiate the terms of their pensions, because the state does that. Asking the towns to pay for the costs of something in which they have had no say is not appropriate.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 7150.

Respectfully,

Angela Stock

New Canaan